to open inland waterways for transport in the country due to saturation of road transport;

(b) if so, the details of the waterways being considered for this purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(d) the details of the scheme of Government to tackle the problem created due to saturation of existing road transport systems in this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) In the 7th Five-Year Plan an outlay of Rs. 225.73 crores has been earmarked for the development of inland water transport of which Rs. 155.00 crores is in the central sector and Rs. 70.73 crores is in the plan of the States and Union Territories.

The above mentioned outlay includes among others, the development of following waterways:—

(i) the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system between Allahabad and Haldia;

(ii) the Brahamputra;

(iii) the Sunderbans;

(iv) the West Coast Canal;

(v) the river Krishna and the Godavari and their delta canals including the Buckingham canal; and

(vi) the Mandovi, Zuari and Mapusa river.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) With a view to augumenting the Inland Water Transport capacity so that it could provide necessary relief to the over burdened road and rail transport system, a scheme costing Rs. 63.80 crroes for acquisition of 63 vessels of various types by CIWTC has been sanctioned. A proposal for modernisation of Rajabagan Dockyard at an estimated cost of Rs. 51.44 crores has also been formulated for augumenting the ship repair and ship building capacity of the Dockyard for inland water transport.

To build up IWT tonnage in private sector, interst subsidy is granted to IWT entrepreneurs in respect of loans obtained by them from financial Institutions for purchase of new inland vessels. An outlay of Rs. 44.20 crores has been earmarked for development of National Waterways, hydrographic survey of important waterways, acquisition of survey launches and equipments, technical studies and research and developmental schemes relating to the development of Inland Water Transport Schemes for development of infrastructural facilities including terminals with modern cargo handling facilities for efficient shipping and transport have also been included.

In the Centrally Sponsored sector and State sector an outlay of Rs. 84.06 crores has been earmarked for improvement of waterways to make them useful for inland navigation.

Strike by station masters

2473. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strike by station masters in the third week of February, 1987 has been called off; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Twenty Station Masters observed fast from 24.2.87 at Boat Club which they called off on 7.3.87 F.N.